

SS InTouch – January

A school counselor's brief from the Indiana Department of Education

- **2008 School Counselor Week is February 3-9th** and the IDOE, along with ISCA, ICA and IACAC, will be issuing a statewide press release that week with the results of the 2007 Indiana School Counselor Survey.

Thanks to the 30+ school counselors who responded to our request for media contacts to talk about the great things that professional school counselors do. If you would like your name to be included on the list of school counselor media contacts that we send to newspaper, radio and television stations – just respond to this e-mail with your name and school name by Thursday, January 10th.

- **Looking for Funding?** We've added a new link to the IDOE School Counselor website for School Counseling-Specific Grants at <http://www.doe.state.in.us/sservices/sc.htm> - located on the lefthand side under "Resources." You can also access the link directly by going to: http://www.doe.state.in.us/sservices/counseling/counseling_specific_grants.pdf We'll update this site regularly with resources to help you find \$\$ for your school counseling program.

Find additional funding opportunities at <http://www.in.gov/cji/> and click on grants → Youth. You may want to take a look at the Title II Grant Program at <http://www.in.gov/cji/youth/applications/2006/Title%20II%20Formula%20Grant%20App.doc>

- **The 2008 Legislative Session** - Several education-related bills have already been introduced to the 2008 Legislative session - including bills removing the time limit on receiving financial aid grants (SB 0058 & HB 1033), allowing paid leave for parents to attend school conferences (SB 0069), requiring schools to start after Labor Day and end before June 15th (SB 0071), and extending the school year from 180 to 200 days (SB 0080). Some of these were also introduced last year. Many more bills are yet to be introduced. You can read a short summary of each proposed bill at <http://www.in.gov/apps/lsa/session/billwatch/billinfo> by clicking on "Complete Information for All Bills."

- Note that all IDOE e-mail addresses will be changing from @doe.state.in.us to @doe.in.gov Nothing earth-shattering but worth noting.

- **Elementary School Counselor Updates**

- The 2008 application for the Indiana Elementary School Counseling Grant (technically called the Elementary School Intervention and Career Counseling Grant) – also known as the Garfield Education Grant – is now available!

The grant provides up to \$15,000 over each of two years for hiring elementary school counselors in Indiana. The application is due March 14th and can be accessed at: http://www.doe.state.in.us/sservices/counseling/docs/grant_application.doc

- More than 70 elementary school counselor lesson plans, tied to the Indiana Universal Guidance Indicators/Gold Star Student Standards, have been added to the IDOE website at <http://www.indianastandardsresources.org/> (choose "Guidance" in the drop down box – and then the grade level and standard).

Thanks goes to our elementary school counselor resource team members who worked hard on these over the summer and fall and to Amanda Snobarger for getting them put on the web!

- **Middle School Counselor Updates**

- Remember, that you can find Middle School Guidance Lessons, tied to the Indiana Universal Student Indicators for Guidance, on our website at:
<http://www.indianastandardsresources.org/standardSummary.asp?Subject=gui&Grade>
- “Quickie” lesson plans, aligned with the Learn More K-12 Mini-Magazines are also available on our IDOE School Counselor website at
http://www.doe.state.in.us/sservices/counseling/classroom_guidance_lessons.pdf

- **High School Counselor Updates**

- Indiana’s state-approved course titles and descriptions for 2008-09 have been completely revamped – and you can find the new documents online at <http://doe.state.in.us/publications/courses.html> Note that all state-approved course titles are now on ONE webpage (not two) and are listed in alpha order. Course descriptions have been shortened and more information is provided to school counselors in bulleted form.

Especially helpful to HS counselors is a “Summary Document” that gives a quick, one line summary of each of the state’s 600+ course titles. Suggested course abbreviations are also included. You can download the summary document at

http://doe.state.in.us/publications/pdf_courses/2008-01-03-INCourseDescriptions-Summary.pdf

- Ordering Core 40 and Honors diploma/graduation stickers will begin shortly. Ordering will be done through our online ordering system as in year’s past. Watch for the memo describing this year’s procedure in the next two weeks.
- IDOE Director of Student Assessment Michele Walker will be addressing questions about the new state assessment to replace ISTEP+ and the GQE at the Indiana ACT Annual Conference at the Sheraton Hotel in Indianapolis on March 3rd. Dr. Walker will be the featured keynote speaker at the one day conference. Register online at <http://www.act.org/cgi-bin/cal/cal.pl?CODE=4566>
- A friendly reminder from the IDOE Fine Arts specialist that Musical Theatre is a Multidisciplinary course and not a Fine Arts course – so it does not “count” for meeting the Fine Arts requirement of the AHD or the Core 40 with AHD.
- Beginning this week, Indiana University High School (IUHS) will begin offering a 25 percent discount on tuition to Indiana high school students who qualify for free or reduced lunch. Email Mike Walsh at miwalsh@indiana.edu, or Kristie Richardson at krrichar@indiana.edu, or call 800.334.1011 for more information.

Resources

- **The Indiana Student Achievement Institute** announces the 2008 INDIANA CONFERENCE ON LEARNING on January 31st at the Adams Mark Hotel in Indianapolis designed to help schools explore school-wide and classroom strategies for possible inclusion in their Indiana P.L.221 School Improvement Plans. The conference will be opened by Dr. Suellen Reed and features Willard Daggett, sixty breakout sessions, and 20 exhibitors. Registration is \$60 and

complete details are online at <http://www.asainstitute.org/conference2008/index.html>

- Register now for the **2008 Indiana ACT Annual Conference** on March 3rd at the Sheraton Hotel at Keystone at the Crossing in Indianapolis. Registration is \$65 for school counselors and complete details are at <http://www.act.org/cgi-bin/cal/cal.pl?CODE=4566>
- Registration for the **Indiana Virtual Academic** runs through January 21st, 2008. If you have students who need to make up a credit, need an AP class, have a scheduling conflict – this is one option. Complete information is available at www.IndVA.org or by calling 812-689-5253 ext. 269
- Seats are still available for the **Spring ICI Counselor Campus Tour** sponsored by Independent Colleges of Indiana. The spring tour runs from April 14-16th and includes stops at DePauw and Oakland City Universities, and St. Mary of the Woods, St. Joseph's and Marian Colleges. A summer campus tour for school counselors is also filling up fast. Find details and register at <http://www.indianacollegechoices.org/counselors/tourinfo.asp> CRU's are available for those who participate.
- **G/T - High Ability Training** – Indiana school counselors are invited to one of the FREE High Ability workshops this spring to help you develop the newly required Guidance & Counseling Plan for high ability students in your district.

Registration for the February 29th training – called “Meeting the Social and Emotional Needs of Students with High Abilities: Developing an Affective Curriculum” in Bloomington is available at <http://www.doe.state.in.us/exceptional/gt/calendar.html>

- **School Counselor Mentor Training**, Round 2, will be held on February 22nd and May 2nd 2008. The deadline to receive applications is February 15th 2008. Visit <http://isca-in.org/mentor.htm> for a description of ISCA's mentor training and to download an application form. Please note that space is limited to 30 participants. Remember:
 - All beginning school counselors with a Rules 2002 license must have a mentor.
 - Only certified school counselor mentors can mentor beginning school counselors.
 - Certified mentor teachers cannot mentor a beginning school counselor.
 - It is the responsibility of the school corporation to locate a certified school counselor mentor, not the responsibility of the beginning school counselor.
- **A “Hands on Apprenticeship” program** for high school students will be held in Indianapolis on March 6th and 7th. To attend, students must come with a school representative and must RSVP with Amy Hoagland at 317-927-0499 or ahoagland@topnotch.org.
- **Give Kids a Smile** is a free statewide program for students who either do not have access to dental insurance OR are on Medicaid but currently do not have a dental provider. On Give Kids a Smile day, February 1, 2008, volunteer dental offices donate the following treatments: cleanings, fillings, extractions, sealants and other procedures the student may need. Volunteers are dentists working in the community who are donating their time and supplies to help students in desperate need of dental care.

Sign up for SS InTouch at <http://listserv.doe.in.gov/mailman/listinfo/intouch>

Find archived editions of SS InTouch at www.doe.in.gov/schoolcounseling under “Resources”

*Direct questions or comments to Amanda Snobarger at asnobarg@doe.in.gov – 317-232-9136 or
Matt Fleck – 317.232.9172 – mfleck@doe.in.gov*